(17,974.)

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

OCTOBER TERM, 1901.

No. 195.

B. A. STOCKARD AND R. C. JONES, COMPOSING THE FIRM OF STOCKARD & JONES; J. H. McREYNOLDS, W. G. OEHMIG, T. M. CAROTHERS, AND J. H. ALLISON, PLAINTIFFS IN ERROR,

US.

CLINT MORGAN AND J. N. McCUTCHEON.

IN ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

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No. 25, 4th Circuit.

Transcript.

Parties:

STOCKARD & JONES ET AL. VS.

CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

No. 8763. Consolidated Cause.

Solicitors:

Pritchard & Sizer & R. P. Woodard; R. B. Cooke & G. W. Pickle.

Filed 6th day of August, 1900.

J. G. STUART, Deputy Clerk.

Appeal by State.

STOCKARD & JONES ET AL. vs.

MORGAN ET AL.

At a regular term of the chancery court of Hamilton county, Tennessee, begun and held at the court-house, in the city of Chattanooga, said county and State, on the first Monday, it being the 2nd day, of April, 1900—present and presiding, the Hon. T. M. McConnell, chancellor in and for the third chancery division of said State—the following proceedings were had, viz:

Thereupon court adjourned until tomorrow morning, at 9 o'clock, without transacting any business.

T. M. McCONNELL, Chancellor.

Tuesday Morning, 3rd April, 1900.

Court met pursuant to adjournment—present and presiding, the Hon. T. M. McConnell, chancellor—when the following proceedings were had, viz:

Style of Suit.

STOCKARD & JONES V8.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

Original Injunction Bill. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 9.30 A. M.

To the Hon. T. M. McConnell, chancellor, etc., presiding in chancery at Chattanooga, Hamilton county, Tennessee:

STOCKARD & JONES, a Firm Composed of B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, Both Residents of Hamilton County, Tennessee, against

2 CLINT MORGAN and J. N. McCutcheon, Residents of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Complainants respectfully show unto your honor that during the present year, 1900, they have been soliciting and taking orders from wholesale or jobbing merchants in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for goods to be sold them by non-resident parties. They represent certain particular non-resident firms and corporations, do not solicit trade from or sell to consumers, and their principal- in all cases are nonresidents. At the end of the month or at stated times their nonresident principals send to them their commissions due them for their services in acting as their agents, drummers, or salesmen. In no instance are complainants the owners of the goods sold, and all they have to do is to negotiate sales made by their non-resident principals to the local dealers. If the orders they send to their nonresident principals are rejected, they get no commission thereon. Complainants are only agents, drummers, or salesmen for certain non-resident principals who own and sell the goods. They do not solicit, sell, drum, or act for or receive pay from any resident of Tennessee whatever, nor do they ever hold themselves out, assume, or pretend to act as the agents, drummers, or salesmen of any resident of Tennessee. They are engaged exclusively in interstate-Their business is limited to selling and taking commerce business. orders for non-residents. They are simply "drummers on foot" for

Complainants were engaged in the same business during 1897, 1898, and 1899, and in no instance during 1897, 1898, 1899, or 1900 have they acted or assumed or pretended to act otherwise than as drummers, agents, or salesmen exclusively for non-resident prin-

cipals.

Complainants, being thus engaged only in interstate commerce, have never applied for or obtained any license to carry on business in Hamilton county, Tennessee, being advised that they were not bound to obtain a license for the character of business they conducted. They charge that they do not owe any privilege tax or other tax or license to the State of Tennessee or Hamilton

3 county. They charge that said State has never had any law in existence during either of said years 1897, 1898, 1899, or 1900 (nor has it now any law in existence) imposing a privilege tax or other tax upon complainant- for the business they have been engaged in. They charge that Hamilton county has no such law, nor

has it had during any of said years; but even if the said State or county has or had a law imposing a tax upon them for the business they have been conducting, they charge the same was or would be invalid, unconstitutional, null and void, and in violation of his rights in the carrying on of interstate commerce. It would be contrary to the Constitution of the United States in the subject of interstate commerce.

Complainant- now charge that defendant Clint Morgan, claiming to be a constable of Hamilton county, Tennessee, has in his hands some sort of paper, called a "distress warrant," issued to him by defendant J. N. McCutcheon, and under this paper is threatening to seize complainants' property and sell the same to pay \$320.00 and \$48.00 penalty—in all, \$368.00—besides "fees and cost of the warrant."

Complainant-applied to said Morgan to inspect the paper or writ under which he was acting and have procured a true and correct copy of the same, which is filed herewith as part of this bill,

marked Exhibit "A," but need not be copied.

Complainants, through their attorney, applied to said McCutcheon to know what the "distress warrant" was for, and if he claimed that complainants owed him as clerk, or the State, or the State and county, a license or privilege tax of \$320.00 and \$48.00 penalty for the current year, or for 1900, or for the year preceding the date of the so-called "distress warrant." Said McCutcheon informed said attorney that he did not claim as much as \$320.00 to be due him as clerk or to the State and county for one year alone, or for 1900, or for the past year, but that the amounts for several years were "doubled up" in some way, and he did not know precisely how the \$320.00 and \$48.00 were arrived at, but that the "distress warrant" was issued under the instructions of E. H. Williams.

Complainants charge that said so-called "distress warrant" is illegal, invalid, and void. It commands that complainants' 4 goods and chattels be distrained a-d sold to pay the \$320.00 and \$48.00 penalty, as endorsed thereon, being the tax imposed by law in such cases, but no amounts whatever are endorsed. The endorsement on said paper is as follows: "State tax, \$-; county tax, \$-; tax, \$-; tax, \$-; tax, \$-; fee, \$-;

fee, \$-; warrant, \$-; total, \$-."

The paper neither on its face nor by endorsement shows any revenue is even claimed for the State of Tennessee or Hamilton county. No year or period of time is shown for which any privilege tax or revenue is claimed. The writ or so-called distress warrant is vague and indefinite. The time is indefinite, and the amounts demanded in the writ are arbitrary. So far as appears, the amounts could have been made \$1,000.00 or \$10,000.00 and then endorsed as blanks. Complainants are left in darkness, except that defendants are attempting to seize and sell their property for \$320 and \$48 penalty and fees and cost under a writ, which does not comply with the law of the land for writs.

Complainants again aver and charge that they do not owe the \$320.00 and \$48.00 or any other sum or sums to said J. N. Mc-Cutcheon, clerk, or to said State or county; that no privilege tax

has ever been imposed upon them, nor could the same have been imposed upon or levied against them legally during either 1897, 1898, 1899, or 1900, and to allow their property to be seized and sold and complainants to be harassed and injured by this illegal and void so-called "distress warrant" would be inequitable, illegal, and unjust, and the enforcement of the writ should be enjoined.

Complainants here point out, as they are advised, that the legislature of Tennessee, by Acts of 1899, in chapter 432, page 1019, imposes a privilege tax of \$20.00 per year in cities of the size of Chattanooga upon "merchandise brokers," which shall include, when the sale is made in the State, all sellers of merchandize to consumers upon orders or samples, and also all agents engaged in such business." All — section 17 of this act purports to authorize county court clerks to issue "distress warrants" "as soon as privilege tax" is delinquent, but neither said act nor any other law of said State even purports to levy or impose a tax upon parties con-

ducting the kind of business complainants have been doing; nor has the county imposed such tax, nor could it legally impose the same, nor could said county legally impose a privilege tax exceeding the State's or where the State has not made the privilege. There is no law for a penalty of 15 per cent. on privilege taxes, for which a county court clerk may have authority to issue a distress warrant.

Complainants further charge that the State revenue agents alone have a right to collect delinquent privilege taxes, and they must do this by suit in the circuit or chancery court, as provided in sec. 79 of ch. 435 of Tennessee Acts of 1899, and even before those acts, as provided in Shannon's Code, sec. 942. Prior to said acts of 1899 the chancery court clerk was authorized (if the law was valid, which is not admitted) to issue a distress warrant against one subject to privilege tax, as provided in Shannon's Code, secs. 1007 to 1010.

But neither under said acts of 1899 nor under any prior law is any authority conferred upon the county court clerk to issue distress warrants for privilege taxes for back years or for "back privilege taxes." As stated, delinquent privilege taxes must be sued for by the State revenue agents, either in the circuit or chancery court.

Complainants charge that, even if the \$320.00 named in said distress warrant could be presumed to be claimed as revenue due the State and county or either of them, and even if said McCutcheon should claim that complainants owned privilege taxes, as "merchandise brokers," for 1899 and 1900, to both State and county, the amount for each year could be only \$40, or \$80 for both years; and then, even if the amounts were "doubled up," they would be only \$80 and \$160 respectively, and not \$320; so that it is manifest, even if said McCutcheon and Morgan are trying to collect from complainant-privilege taxes claimed for the State and county, they have clearly included in said "distress warrant" privilege taxes claimed for years back of 1899.

Complainants charge that the \$48 penalty named in said distress warrant is manifestly a fifteen per cent. attorney's fee, sought to be collected for said E. H. Williams, as State revenue agent and said revenue agent is not entitled to the same, and it is wrongfully put in said warrant. By law the revenue agents are only allowed 15 per cent. fee where they sue for and recover

revenue from defendants.

Complainants charge that said distress warrant should not be executed and is illegal and void for many reasons. It is indefinite and uncertain, and does not show any privilege taxes due or even claimed for the State or county. The endorsements thereon are blanks. Even if it could be supposed to be a writ by the county court clerk to collect privilege taxes for the State and county, yet it includes taxes claimed for "back years," with which the clerk had nothing to do at the date of the warrant. It illegally calls for \$48 penalty. It is not founded on any judgment. It does not show any authority of law for its issuance. It does not specify any sum due the State or the county or any other party.

Complainants insist that in order to be valid at all it must show, at least, what money is claimed as due and to whom; that they should not be deprived of their property without due process of law, and that the execution of said so-called "distress warrant" would be

in violation of due process of law.

The premises considered, complainants pray that the parties named as such in the caption be made defendants to this bill by services of subpæna and copy and required to answer this bill fully; that they may be enjoined from seizing the property of complainants and from enforcing said so-called "distress warrant." Let the same be declared invalid, illegal, and void. Let the injunction be made perpetual; and complainants pray for such other and general relief as the nature of the case requires. This is the first application for injunction in this cause.

R. P. WOODARD, PRITCHARD & SIZER, Sol'rs for Compl'ts.

STOCKARD & JONES.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, Hamilton County.

Complainant B. A. Stockard makes oath that the facts stated in the foregoing bill as of his own knowledge are true, and those stated upon information and belief he believes to be true.

B. A. STOCKARD.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of March, 1900. [SEAL.] HERBERT BUSHNELL, N. P.

To the clerk & master of Hamilton county, Tennessee:

On bond therefor being given, with security in penalty and conditioned as the law requires, issue injunction as prayed in foregoing bill.

This M'reh 22, 1900, at 4.56 p. m. T. M. McCONNELL, Chancellor

EXHIBIT "A" TO ORIGINAL BILL.

State of Tennessee to the sheriff or any constable of Hamilton county, Greeting:

Whereas Stockard & Jones has been and is now exercising the privilege of merchandize broker- in said county without first obtaining a license therefor: Now, therefore, you are hereby commanded to distrain and sell so much of the goods and chattels of said Stockard & Jones, a firm composed of B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, as shall be sufficient to pay three hundred and twenty dollars and forty-eight dollars' penalty, as endorsed hereon, being the tax imposed by law in such cases made and provided, together with the fees and cost of the warrant, and to immediately execute and return the same to me by the 8th day of April, under the penalty prescribed by law. Herein fail not.

Witness my hand, at office, this 8th day of March, 1900. J. N. McCUTCHEON, Clerk.

Instructions of E. H. Williams, State rev. ag't.

Endorsed as follows:

No. -. Distress warrant. Clerk County Court v. Stockard & Jones. Issued the 8th day of March, 1900. Came to hand — day of —, 1—. — —, clerk. — —, D. C. Officer's return. Taxes and bill of costs. State tax, \$-; county tax, \$-; tax, \$-; tax, \$-; tax, \$-; fee, \$-; fee, \$-; warrant, 8-; total, 8-.

Injunction Bond. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 9.30 A. M.

Know all men by these presents that we, Stockard & Jones, viz., B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, as principals, and J. H. McReynolds, as surety, are held and firmly bound unto Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon in the penal sum of five hundred dollars; for which payment, well and truly to be made, we bound ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 23rd day of March, in the

year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, 1900.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas said principal obligor hath the day of the date hereof prayed for and obtained from the court of chancery holden at Chattanooga, in the State of Tennessee, a writ of injunction, returnable to the chancery court holden at Chattanooga on the first Monday in April next:

Now, if the said principal obligor shall prosecute the said injunction with effect, or in case he fails therein shall well and truly pay and satisfy the said obligee- or either of them all such costs and damages as may be awarded and recovered against the said obligors in any suit or suits which may be hereafter brought for wrongfully suing out of said injunction, and shall, moreover, abide by and perform such orders and decrees as the court may make in this case and pay such costs and damages as the court may order, then the above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in

full force and effect.

STOCKARD & JONES, SEAL.
By B. A. STOCKARD,
J. W. McREYNOLDS. SEAL.

Motion to Dismiss Bill. Filed 5th Day of April, 1900.

Now comes the defendants and move to dismiss the bill filed against them in this cause for want of equity on the face of the bill.

R. B. COOKE,

Sol. for Defendants.

10 Agreement of Parties. Filed 19th Day of April, 1900.

In the Chancery Court of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In order to save costs, it is agreed that all the above-stated causes be, and the same are hereby, consolidated under the style of Stockard & Jones v. Clint Morgan et al., No. 8763, in this court, under which title they shall hereafter proceed.

The counsel for the defendant and the State of Tennessee and County of Hamilton need file but one answer in the consolidated case, and if it is claimed that privilege taxes are due from the complainants or any of them they may set up in said answer what priv-

ilege taxes are claimed to be due from each of the several complainants and for what years.

The complainants are allowed to rely upon any statute of limitations or other defense to any tax that may be set up or claimed

against them or any of them.

The parties may take such proof as may be pertinent or relevant to the controversy, to the privilege tax claimed, the character of business conducted by the several complainants, etc., but all proof will be taken and entitled in this consolidated case. No. 8763.

It is agreed that the question at issue is whether or not the complainants or any of them are liable for any privilege tax, and it is agreed that the consolidated case may be heard upon its merits, a-d that it shall be determined therein whether or not the complain-

ants or any of them are so liable.

All questions which might affect the jurisdiction of the court to determine the liability or non-liability of any of the complainants for privilege taxes under the law and facts applicable to the cases of the several complainants are hereby waived, and, in order to put the case upon its merits, it is agreed that the court shall not consider the question of the regularity or irregularity of the distress warrants set out in the bill, but shall determine and decree upon

the main question already indicated.

It is further agreed that E. H. Williams, Esq., revenue agent, may intervene in this case on behalf of the State and county as against all of the complainants and may file his answer as a cross-bill or file a cross-bill, or that his answer may be treated as a cross-bill, at his election, but in either case the complainants need not file an answer to such pleading. Such pleading as he may file shall be treated as a suit for the recovery of such privilege taxes, penalties, charges, etc., as he may claim therein, and this consolidated case shall proceed as if said revenue agent were seeking affirmative relief on behalf of the State and county by suit; and it is agreed that no advantage is to be taken of the fact that the original proceedings were begun by distress warrant instead of by suit, and said revenue agent's right to commission or fees shall be the same as if he had brought suit for the taxes claimed.

If the court shall be of the opinion that the complainants or any of them are liable for any privilege tax, the decree shall settle and

determine the amount for which the several complainants
are liable and for what years, and whether or not they are
liable for any penalties and costs or other charges and for
what years, and decree shall be rendered against the several complainants for the sums found against them respectively. If the
court shall be of opinion that the complainants or any of them are
not liable for any privilege tax, it shall be so decreed. The object
of this agreement is, as stated above, to put the cases upon their
merits, and to have the question of the liability or non-liability of

CLINI MORGAN EL MI

the several complainants determined upon the law and all the relevant facts.

This April 17, 1900.

PRITCHARD & SIZER & ROB'T P. WOODARD,
Sol's for Compl'ts.
R. B. COOKE, Att'y for Def'ts.

Answer of Defendants. Filed 19th Day of April, 1900.

The joint and separate answer of J. N. McCutcheon, county court clerk of Hamilton county, and Clint Morgan to the bills filed against them in the above-stated consolidated causes.

Defendant McCutcheon, for answer to so much and such parts of said bill as he is advised it is necessary and material for him to answer, says that it is true that he issued the distress warrants, copies of which are set out as exhibits to the bill in this cause; that it is true that he is county court clerk of Hamilton county, Tennessee, and issued said distress warrants on motion of E. H. Williams, State revenue agent, against all of said parties, who are doing business as merchandise brokers in Hamilton county, Tennessee, without having first complied with the law requiring them to pay a privilege tax of \$20.00 to the State and \$20.00 to Hamilton county for each year for which they have so conducted their business.

He further shows to your honor that he has made repeated demands on all of said parties to pay said privilege taxes, and they have failed and refused to do so, claiming that they, under some

clause of the interstate-commerce law, were not liable for the same, and it therefore became defendant's duty, under the instructions of the State revenue agent, to issue the distress

warrant against said parties, as they have set out.

He further shows unto your honor that said parties are merchandise brokers, and that the revenue acts of Tennessee impose a privilege tax upon merchandise brokers, and that it is his duty as county court clerk of Hamilton county to enforce the provisions of the laws of Tennessee as well as he can in his position as clerk of the county court of Hamilton county.

Defendant Morgan shows unto your honor that said distress warrants, as set out in said consolidated causes, came to his hands as a constable of Hamilton county, Tennessee, and that he was proceeding to do his duty simply under his official oath and bond; that he has no interest in this litigation at all, and he prays to be hence dismissed with his reasonable costs.

Defendant McCutcheon denies that the State of Tennessee and Hamilton county has no law in existence imposing a privilege tax upon complainants for the business they have engaged in.

Now, having fully answered, defendants pray to be hence dismissed with their reasonable costs.

J. N. McCUTCHEON. CLINT MORGAN,

Bu Counsel.

R. B. COOKE. Sol'r for Def'ts.

Petition of the State of Tennessee and Hamilton County. Filed 19th Day of April, 1900.

Petitioners respectfully show unto your honor that the complainants Stockard and Jones, a firm composed of B. H. Stockard and R. C. Jones, both residents of Hamilton county, Tennessee; W. G. Oehmig, J. H. McReynolds, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, all citizens of Hamilton county, Tennessee, are merchandise brokers, doing business in Hamilton county, Tennessee; that they are liable to petitioners for privilege taxes as follows: The firm of Stockard & Jones for privilege taxes due the State of Tennessee and Hamilton county for the years 1897—State tax, \$20.00; county tax, \$20.00.

For the year 1898-State tax, \$20.00; county tax, \$20.00. For the year 1899—State tax, \$20.00; county tax, \$20.00. For the year 1900—State tax, \$20.00; county tax, \$20.00, together with costs, fees, and penalties, as provided in the Act- of

1899, chapter 435.

W. G. Oehmig is indebted to petitioners in the same amount for

the same years.

14

J. H. McReynolds is indebted to petitioners for the State tax for the year 1900 in the sum of \$20.00—county tax, \$20.00—together

with costs, fees, and penalties thereon allowed by law.

T. M. Carothers is indebted to petitioners for the said privilege taxes for the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900 in the same amount and made up of the same items as Stockard & Jones, as set out above.

J. H. Allison is indebted to petitioners in the same amount and

for the same items as said Stockard & Jones.

Petitioners show unto your honor that all of said parties have failed and refuse- to pay said privilege taxes, as set out above, and distress warrants have been issued against them, on motion of E. H. Williams, State revenue agent, and said parties have come into your honor's court and enjoined the collection of said distress warrants.

Petitioners pray that this petition be filed in said consolidated cases against all of said parties above named, that process issue against them, and that they be required to answer, but their answer under oath is waived; that the petitioners have a decree against said parties and their securities on their injunction bond for the amount of said privilege taxes as set out above, together with interest, costs, fees, and penalties as allowed by law, and for general relief.

THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, HAMILTON COUNTY, By E. H. WILLIAMS,

State Revenue Agent.

R. B. COOKE, Sol'r.

Answer of Stockard & Jones et al. to Petition of State of Tennessee. Filed 26th Day of April, 1900.

The joint and separate answers of Stockard and Jones, a firm composed of B. H. Stockard and R. C. Jones; W. G. Oehmig, J. H. McReynolds, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison to the petition of the State of Tennessee and Hamilton County, filed against them in the above-entitled case.

For answer to so much and such parts of said petition as these respondents are advised it is material and necessary for them to respond to, they say:

They jointly and severally deny that they are liable to the State of Tennessee or the county of Hamilton for privilege taxes for the years and in the sums mentioned in said petition or for any other

years or in any other sums whatever.

It is true that these respondents have failed and refused to pay said alleged privilege taxes, for the reasons fully set out in their several bills filed in this consolidated case, and they jointly and severally aver that the statements contained in their said bills are true as therein made, and constitute full and complete defenses to the illegal demand set up against them by the petitioners.

Respondents refer to and adopt the statements contained in their said several original bills as fully as if they were here again made

and repeated.

And now, having fully answered, respondents pray to be hence

dismissed with reasonable costs.

STOCKARD & JONES, W. G. OEHMIG, J. H. McREYNOLDS, T. M. CAROTHERS, J. H. ALLISON, By PRITCHARD, Sol.

R. P. WOODARD, PRITCHARD & SIZER, Solvrs.

Agreement of Parties. Filed 1st Day of May, 1900.

In this consolidated cause the following agreement is made
as to the facts relating to the matters in controversy, viz:
It is agreed that the several complainants in the original
bills, to wit, J. H. McReynolds, Stockard & Jones, W. G. Oehmig,
T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, are residents of Hamilton county,

That said J. H. McReynolds has been carrying on business in Chattanooga, said county and State, during the present year, 1900; that said Stockard and Jones, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison have been carrying on business in said city during the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

That the character of said business so carried on by the respective complainants, or the manner of conducting the business of each, is

and has been as follows:

The complainant, as the representative of non-resident parties, firms, or corporations, solicits orders for goods from jobbers or wholesale dealers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and when such orders are obtained sends them to his non-resident principal or principals. If an order is accepted the goods are shipped by such non-resident principal or principals to the local jobber or wholesale dealer. Up to the time of the sale, the goods in all instances belong to the non-resident principal or principals, and are shipped to the State of Tennessee from another State.

In making sales or soliciting orders for the goods, the complainant sometimes exhibits samples to the local jobber or wholesale dealer

and sometimes takes the orders without showing a sample.

Unless complainant has been previously authorized by the principal or principals to sell at a fixed price, the orders are taken subject to acceptance or rejection by such non-resident principal or principal.

pals, who own the goods.

At the end of each month, or at stated periods, the complainant is paid a commission by such non-resident principal or principals for goods previously sold on accepted orders. No commission is paid on orders taken but rejected. Complainant does not receive for his services any pay or salary from any local jobber or dealer or resident

of Tennessee, nor does he assume to represent, or represent or hold himself out as representing, any resident of Tennessee or negotiate any sales of goods for residents of Tennessee. His principals are all residents of other States of the United States, and the goods sold are shipped from such other States to the State of

Tennessee for delivery to buyers who reside in Tennessee.

The complainant has an office or "headquarters" in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he keeps samples, stationery, and other articles; but he travels around on foot daily or frequently in drumming or soliciting orders for goods, as before stated. His principals are specific parties, firms, or corporations, all non-residents of Tennessee and residents of other States in the United States, and he does not represent or hold himself out as representing the public in general, or negotiate or sell for any resident of Tennessee.

The defendants and solicitors for the State of Tennessee and Hamilton county contend that, under the facts, the complainants are "merchandise brokers," and each of them is bound for privilege

taxes under the laws of Tennessee.

That J. H. McReynolds should pay a privilege tax for 1900 to the State of \$20.00, and to the county of \$20.00.

That Stockard & Jones should pay to the State \$20.00 for each of

the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900, and a like sum for each of said years to the county of Hamilton.

That each of the other complainants owe the same sums as

Stockard & Jones.

That all of the complainants should be held for proper penalties, costs, and attorneys' fees if they are held liable for such taxes.

The complainants contend that they are engaged exclusively in interstate commerce and are not bound for such privilege taxes; further, that the revenue laws of Tennessee applicable to "merchandise brokers" do not include these complainants, so as to make them subject to privilege taxes; but even if such laws do include complainants, yet they are inoperative and void as against complainants, who are engaged solely in interstate commerce.

18-22

R. B. COOKE, Sol'r for Def'ts.
R. P. WOODARD,
PRITCHARD & SIZER,
For Compl'ts.

Transcript of case of-

J. H. McReynolds
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.
No. 8762.

Original Injunction Bill. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 9.30 A. M.

23 Injunction Bond. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 9.30 A. M.

Know all men by these presents that we, J. H. McReynolds, as principal, and B. A. Stockard, as surety, are held and firmly bound unto Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon in the penal sum of five hundred and no oo dollars; for which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 23rd day of M'ch, in the year

of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, 1900.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas said principal obligor hath, the day of the date hereof, prayed for and obtained from the court of chancery, holden at Chattanooga, in the State of Tennessee, a writ of injunction, returnable to the chancery court, holden at Chattanooga, on the first Monday in April next:

Now, if the said principal obligor shall prosecute the said injunction with effect, or, in case he fails therein, shall well and truly pay and satisfy said obligee- or either of them all such costs and damages as may be awarded and recovered against the said obligors in any suit or suits which may be hereafter brought for wrongfully suing out of said injunction, and shall, moreover, abide by and perform such orders and decrees as the court may make in this case.

24 and pay such costs and damages as the court may order, then

the above obligation is to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

J. H. McREYNOLDS. [SEAL.] B. A. STOCKARD. [SEAL.]

We hereby acknowledge and bind ourselves for the prosecution of the above suit and payment of all such costs as may be awarded on the final hearing thereof.

B. A. STOCKARD. [SEAL.]

Motion to Dismiss Bill. Filed 5th Day of April, 1900.

Now comes the defendants and move to dismiss the bill filed against them in this cause for want of equity on the face of the bill.

R. B. COOKE.

Sol'r for Defendants.

25-30 Transcript of case of-

W. G. OEHMIG
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.
No. 8764.

Original Injunction Bill. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 10.15.

31 Injunction Bond. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 10.15 A. M.

Know all men by these presents that we, W. G. Oehmig, as principal, and Thos. M. Carothers, as surety, are held and firmly bound unto Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon in the penal sum of five hundred and no oo dollars; for which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 23rd day of March, in the

year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, 1900.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas said principal obligor hath the day of the date hereof prayed for and obtained from the court of chancery holden at Chattanooga, in the State of Tennessee, a writ of injunction, returnable to the chancery court holden at Chattanooga on the first Monday in April next:

Now, if the said principal obligor shall prosecute the said injunction with effect, or in case he fails therein shall well and truly pay and satisfy the said obligee- or either of them all such costs and damages as may be awarded and recovered against the said obligors in any suits or suit which may be hereafter brought for wrongfully suing out of said injunction, and shall, moreover, abide by and

32 perform such orders and decrees as the court may order, then

the above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

W. G. OEHMIG. SEAL. THOS. M. CAROTHERS. SEAL.

We hereby acknowledge and bind ourselves for the prosecution of the above suit and payment of all such costs as may be awarded on the final hearing thereof.

THOS. M. CAROTHERS. [SEAL.]

Motion to Dismiss Bill. Filed 5th Day of April, 1900.

Now comes the defendants and move to dismiss the bill filed against them in this cause for want of equity on the face of the

33-38

R. B. COOKE, Sol'r for Defendant-.

Transcript of case of-

T. M. CAROTHERS CLINT MORGAN ET AL

Original Injunction Bill. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 10.15 A. M.

39 Injunction Bond. Filed 23rd Day of March, 1900, at 10.15 A. M.

Know all men by these presents that we, T. M. Carothers, as principal, and W. G. Oehmig, as surety, are held and firmly bound unto Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon in the penal sum of five hundred and no 00 dollars; for which payment, well and truly to be made. we bind ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated the 23rd day of March, in the

year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, 1900.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas said principal obligor hath the day of the date hereof prayed for and obtained from the court of chancery holden at Chattanooga, in the

State of Tennessee, a writ of injunction, returnable to the chancery court holden at Chattanooga on the first Monday

in April next:

40

Now, if the said principal obligor shall prosecute the said injunction with effect, or in case he fails therein shall well and truly pay and satisfy said obligee- or either of them all such costs and damages as may be awarded and recovered against the said obligors in any suits or suit which may be hereafter brought for wrongfully suing out of said injunction, and shall, moreover, abide by and perform such orders and decrees as the court may make in this case, and pay such costs and damages as the court may order, then the above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

THOS. M. CAROTHERS.

W. G. OEHMIG.

**

SEAL.

SEAL.

SEAL.

We hereby acknowledge and bind ourselves for the prosecution of the above suit and payment of all such costs as may be awarded on the final hearing thereof.

W. G. OEHMIG. [SEAL.]

41-46 Motion to Dismiss Bill. Filed 5th Day of April, 1900.

Now comes the defendants and moves to dismiss the bill filed against them in this cause for want of equity on the face of the bill.

R. B. COOKE,

Sol'r for Defendant-

Transcript of case of-

J. H. ALLISON
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

Original Injunction Bill. Filed 27th Day of March, 1900, at 10.20 A. M.

47 Injunction Bond. Filed 27th Day of March, 1900, at 10.20 A. M.

Know all men by these presents that we, J. H. Allison, as principal, and R. J. Ashford, as surety, are held and firmly bound unto Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon in the penal sum of five hundred and no an dollars; for which —, well and truly to be

48 made, we bind ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, or executors, administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 27th day of March, in the

year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, 1900.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas said principal obligor hath the day of the date hereof prayed for and obtained from the court of chancery holden at Chattanooga, in the State of Tennessee, a writ of injunction, returnable to the chancery court holden at Chattanooga on the first Monday in April next:

Now, if the said principal obligor shall prosecute the said injunction with effect, or in case he fails therein shall well and truly pay and satisfy the said obligee- or either of them all such costs and damages as may be awarded and recovered against the said obligors in any suit or suits which may be hereafter brought for wrongfully suing out of said injunction, and shall, moreover, abide by and perform such orders and decrees as the court may make in this case, and pay such costs and damages as the court may order, then the

above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

J. H. ALLISON, [SEAL.] By PRITCHARD. [SEAL.] R. J. ASHFORD. [SEAL.]

We hereby acknowledge and bind ourselves for the prosecution of the above suit and payment of all such costs as may be awarded in the final hearing thereof.

R. J. ASHFORD. [SEAL.]

49 Motion to Dismiss Bill. Filed 5th Day of April, 1900.

Now comes the defendants and moves to dismiss the bill filed against them in this cause for want of equity on the face of the bill.

R. B. COOKE,

Sol't for Defendants.

Final Decree. Enrolled 14th Day of May, 1900.

STOCKARD & JONES
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

J. H. McReynolds
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

W. G. OEHMIG
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

T. M. CAROTHERS
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

J. H. ALLISON
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

No. 8765.

CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

No. 8770.

These consolidated causes came on to be heard before Chancellor McConnell on the bills, the answer of the defendants J. N. McCutcheon, county court clerk, and Clint Morgan; the petition of the State of Tennessee and Hamilton County, and the answer of the defendants therein, the agreed state of facts, and the entire record; and, after argument of counsel, the court is of opinion and decrees that the complainants in the several bills are entitled to the relief sought therein.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the court that the complainants, Stockard and Jones, J. N. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, are not subject to the privilege tax, penalties, costs, and fees sought to be collected from

them, and the injunction-granted under the several bills consolidated in this cause restraining the collection thereof are made perpetual.

It is further ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the court that the defendant Hamilton County pay all the costs of these consolidated

causes, for which execution may issue.

From this decree petitioners, State of Tennessee and Hamilton County, pray an appeal to the next term of the supreme court to be held at Knoxville, Tennessee, on the 2nd Monday of September next, which is granted without bond.

51

Rule Docket.

Parties:

J. H. McReynolds
vs.
CLINT MORGAN and J. N. McCutcheon.

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer, R. B. Cooke.

1900.

March 23, at 9.30 a.m. Original injunction bill filed to enjoin defendants from enforcing "distress warrants," &c.

23. Exhibit "A" attached to bill filed, being copy of distress

warrant.

23. Prosecution bond—R. B. Stockard, surety—taken and filed.

4 23. Injunction bond—amount, \$500; R. B. Stockard, surety—taken and filed.

23. Injunction issued to defendants, as prayed, and returned March 23, served by T. P. McMahan, D. S.

23. Copy bill, 1,500 words, and sps. to answer issued to Hamilton County for defendants.

26. Spa. to answer returned served by Thos. P. McMahan, D. S.

April 5. Motion to dismiss bill filed.

April term.

May 14. Final decree in No. 8763, v. 519.

Rule Docket.

Parties:

W. G. ORHMIG
vs.
CLINT MORGAN and J. N. McCutcheon.

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer, R. B. Cooke.

1900.

March 23, at 10.15 a. m. Original injunction bill filed to enjoin defendants from enforcing "distress warrant."

March 23. Exhibit "A" attached to bill filed, being copy of distress warrant.

Prosecution bond—T. M. Carothers, surety—taken and filed.
 Injunction bond—amount, \$500; T. M. Carother-, surety—

" 23. Injunction bond—amount, taken and filed.

23. Injunction issued to defendants, as prayed, and returned March 23, served by T. P. McMahan, D. S.

23. Copy of bill, 1,900 words, and spns. to answer issued to Hamilton County for def'ts.

26. Spa. to answer returned served by Thos. P. McMahan,

April 5. Motion to dismiss bill filed.

April term.

May 14. Final decree in No. 8763, v. 519.

53

Rule Docket.

Parties:

T. M. CAROTHERS
vs.
CLINT MORGAN and J. N. McCutcheon.

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer, R. B. Cooke.

1900.

March 23, at 10.15 a. m. Original injunction bill filed to enjoin defendants from enforcing "distress warrant," &c.

March 23. Exhibit "A" attached to bill filed, being copy of "distress warrant."

23. Prosecution bond—W. G. Oehmig, security—taken and filed.

23. Injunction bond—amount, \$500; W. G. Oehmig, surety—taken and filed.

March 23. Injunction issued to defendants, as prayed, and returned March 23, served by T. P. McMahan, D. S.

23. Copy of bill, 1,900 wds., and spa. to answer issued to Hamilton County for def'ts.

" 26. Spa. to answer returned served by Thos. P. McMahan, D. S.

April 5. Motion to dismiss bill filed.

April term.

May 14. Final decree in No. 8763, v. 519.

54

Rule Docket.

Parties:

Solicitors:

J. H. ALLISON
vs.
CLINT MORGAN and J. N. McCutcheon.
No. 8770.

R. P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer, R. B. Cooke.

1900.

March 27, 10.20 a.m. Original injunction bill filed to enjoin defendants from enforcing distress warrant, etc.

March 27. Exhibit "A" attached to bill filed, being copy of "distress warrant."

" 27. Prosecution bond—R. J. Ashford, surety—taken and filed.

27. Injunction bond—amount, \$500; R. J. Ashford, surety—taken and filed.

27. Injunction issued to defendants, as prayed, and returned March 28, served by Thos. P. McMahan, D. S.

 Copy of bill, 1,900 wds., and spa. to answer issued to Hamilton County for defendants.

" 28. Spa. to answer returned served by Thos. P. McMahan, D. S.

April 5. Motion to dismiss bill filed.

April term.

May 14. Final decree in 8763. V. 519.

55

Rule Docket.

Parties:

STOCKARD & JONES (VIZ., R. B. STOCKARD and R. C. Jones)

VS.

CLINT MORGAN and J. N. McCutcheon.

Solicitors:

R. P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer, R. B. Cooke.

March 23, at 9 a. m. Original injunction bill filed to enjoin defendants from enforcing "distress warrants," etc.

March 23. Exhibit "A" attached to bill filed, being copy of "distress warrant."

March 23. Prosecution bond—J. H. McReynolds, surety—taken and filed.

" 23. Injunction bond—amount, \$500; J. H. McReynolds,

surety-taken and filed.

" 23. Injunction issued to defendant, as prayed, and returned March 23, served by T. P. McMahan, D. S.

23. Copy bill, 1,850 words, and spa. to answer issued to

Hamilton County for defendants.
26. Spa. to answer returned served by Thos. P. McMahan,

April 5. Motion to dismiss bill.

a 19. Agreement of parties consolidating cause and Nos. 8762, 6465, and '70, &c., filed.

" 19. Answer of defendants filed; notice given.

" 19. Petition of the State of Tennessee and Hamilton County filed.

19. No process issued, by order of R. B. Cooke, sol'r.

26. Answer of Stockard and Jones, W. G. Oehmig, J. H. McReynolds, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison to petition filed; notice given.

May 1. Agreement of parties filed.

April term.

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May 14. Final decree in favor of complainants making injunction perpetual, and judgment against Hamilton County for costs. Appeal prayed and granted. V. 519.

Execution Docket.

Parties:

J. H. McReynolds
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer.

1900-March 23, at 9.30 a. m.:	
	Am't.
State tax	2.50
County tax	2.50
County tax	
Recording, .25; injunction, 1.00; copy of bill, 1.50; spa. to ans., .75	
Motion, .25; judg't for costs, .25; docketing, .30; bill of cost-, .50	6.05
Sheriff's fee-:	6.05
Thos. P. McMahan, D. S., serving inj., 2 def'ts 2.00	
Summoning 2 def'ts 2.00	
	4.00

April term, 14th May, 1900. Judgment against Hamilton County for costs.

" 14th May, 1900. Decree making injunction perpetual. V. 519. (Appealed. See No. 8763.)

Execution Docket.

Parties:

W. G. OEHMIG CLINT MORGAN ET AL

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer.

1900-March 23, 1900, at 10.15 a. m.:

State tax		2.50 2.50
Recording, 25; injunction, 1.00; copy of bill, 1.90; spa. to ans., .75	3.90	
of cost-, .50	1.30	6.45
Sheriff fees:		
Thos. P. McMahan, D. S., serving inj., 2 def'ts	2.00	4.00
		\$15.45

April term, 14th May, 1900. Judgment against Hamilton County for costs.

14th May, 1900. Decree making injunction perpetual. V. 519.

(Appealed. See No. 8763.)

Execution Docket.

Parties:

T. M. CAROTHERS

28.

CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

No. 8765.

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer.

1900—March 23, at 10.15 a. m.:		Amount.
State tax		2.50
County toy		2.50
Filing bill, .25; pros. bond, .25; recording, .25; inj.	1.50	
Injunction, 1.00; copy bill, 1.90; spa. to ans., .75; motion, .25	3.90	
Judgement for costs, 25; docketing, 30; bill of costs, .50	1.05	6.45
Sheriff fee-:		
Thos. P. McMahan, D. S., serving inj., 2 def'ts	2.00	
Summoning 2 def'ts	2.00	4.00
		\$15.45

April term, 14th May, 1900. Judgment against Hamilton County for costs.

14 May, 1900. Decree making injunction perpetual.
V. 519.

(Appealed. See No. 8763.)

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Execution Docket.

Parties:

J. H. ALLISON
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

Solicitors:

Rob't P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer.

1900-March 27, at 10.20 a. m.:

1900-March 21, at 10.20 a. m.		
State tax		2.50
County tax	******	2.50
Filing bill, .25; pros. bond, .25; recording, .25; inj. bond, .50; recording, .25	1.50	
Injunction, 1.00; copy of bill, 1.90; spa. to ans., .75; motion, .25	3.90	
Judg't for costs, .25; docketing, .30; bill of costs, .50	1.05	6.45

Sheriff fees:

Thos. P. McMahan, D. S., serving inj., 2 def'ts Summoning 2 def'ts	2.00
(2) 등에 가는 가는 사람들이 가는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는데	

4.00

\$15.45

April term, 14th May, 1900. Judgment against Hamilton County for costs.

" 14th May, 1900. Decree making injunction perpetual.

V. 519. (Appealed. See No. 8763.)

61

Execution Docket.

Parties:

STOCKARD & JONES
108.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

Solicitors:

R. P. Woodard, Pritchard & Sizer.

1900-March 23, at 9.30 a. m.:

	Amount.
State tax	. 2.50
County tax	. 2.50
Filing bill, .25; pros. bond, .25; recording, .25; injunction bond, .50	5
Recording, .25; injunction, 1.00; copy bill, 1.85; spa. to ans., .75	5
notice, .25 1.00	
Filing pet., .25; filing ans. to pet., .25; notice, .25 Filing agreement, .25; final decree, .75; docketing,	
.30	
Sheriff fee-:	8.65
Thos. P. McMahan, D. S., serving injunction, 2 def'ts. 2.00	
Summoning 2 def'ts	4.00
	\$17.65

April term, 14th May, 1900. Judgment against Hamilton County for costs.

" 14th May, 1900. Decree making injunction perpetual. V. 519.

Appealed.

Costs Incident to Appeal.

Transcript for supreme court, 20,750 wds	20.75
	201 80

62

Certificate of Clerk & Master.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, Hamilton County.

I, J. B. Ragon, clerk and master of the chancery court of said county, hereby certify that the foregoing sixty-two pages of words and figures comprise a full, true, and perfect transcript, as required by the rules of the supreme court, of all the records, pleadings, exhibits, and proceedings had by said court in the consolidated cause wherein Stockard and Jones are complainants and Clint Morgan et al. are defendants, as the same remain of record and on file in my office.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court, at office, [SEAL.] in the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, this the 12th day of

July, 1900.

J. B. RAGON, C. & M.

(Stamp.)

63 STOCKARD & JONES
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.
No. 25, Supreme Court Docket.

Come the defendant-, by solicitors, and move the court to remand these consolidated causes to the docket of the supreme court, because the only questions involved are questions involving State and county revenue.

R. B. COOKE, Sol'r for Def't-.

Brief.

The sole questions involved in these causes are whether or not the complainants, who are merchandise brokers, are liable to the State and county for privilege taxes.

See Transcript, page- 2, 3, and 11.

See Code (Shannon's), sec. 6321 and 6326.

R. B. COOKE, Sol'r for Defendants.

64 Brief and Assignment of Errors for Defendants.

In the Supreme Court at Knoxville, Tennessee, September Term, 1900.

Filed Sept. 17, 1900. J. G. Stuart, D. C.

STOCKARD & JONES vs.
CLINT MORGAN.

I.

Statement of Case.

These several bills, consolidated and heard as one cause, were filed to enjoin the collection of privilege taxes claimed for the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900, against the complainants as merchandise brokers. All questions were eliminated, by agreement of parties, except:

1. Whether or not complainants are merchandise brokers and

subjects by statute to tax as such.

2. Whether or not their business constitutes interstate commerce, and therefore lies beyond the reach of the State's taxing power.

The chancellor held that complainants were not liable for said privilege tax and enjoined its collection perpetually, and adjudged the costs against Hamilton County.

The defendants appeal.

II.

Assignment of Errors and Brief.

(1.)

The court erred in adjudging that complainants were not liable for said tax and in refusing to dismiss their bills.

Complainants are merchandise brokers; they are not engaged in interstate commerce.

The facts with reference to the character of business done by complainants are agreed upon and are as follows:

65 "It is agreed that the several complainants in the original bills, to wit, J. H. McReynolds, Stockard and Jones, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, are residents of Hamil-

ton county, Tenn.

"That said J. H. McReynolds has been carrying on business in Chattanooga, said county and State, during the present year, 1900; that said Stockard and Jones, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison have been carrying on business in said city during the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

"That the character of said business so carried on by the respective complainants or the manner of conducting the business of each

is and has been as follows:

"The complainant, as representative of non-resident parties, firms,

or corporations, solicits orders from jobbers or wholesale dealers in Chattanooga, Tenn., and when such orders are obtained sends them to his non-resident principal or principals. If an order is accepted, the goods are shipped by such non-resident principal or principals to the local jobber or wholesale dealer. Up to the time of the sale the goods in all instances belong to the non-resident principal or principals and are shipped to the State of Tennessee from another

"In making sales or soliciting orders for the goods, the complainant sometimes exhibits samples to the local jobber or wholesale dealer, and sometimes takes the order without showing a sample.

"Unless complainant has been previously authorized by principal or principals to sell at a fixed price, the orders are taken subject to acceptance or rejection by such non-resident principal or principals,

who own the goods.

"At the end of each month or at stated periods the complainant is paid a commission by such non-resident principal or principals for goods previously sold on accepted orders; no commission is paid on orders taken but rejected. Complainant does not receive for his services any pay or salary from any local jobber or dealer or

resident of Tennessee, nor does he assume to represent, or 66 represent or hold himself out as representing, any resident of Tennessee, or negotiate any sales of goods for residents of Tennessee. His principals are all residents of other States of the United States, and the goods sold are shipped from such other State to the State of Tennessee for delivery to buyers who reside in Tennessee.

"The complainant has an office or 'headquarters' in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he keeps samples, stationery, and other articles, but he travels around on foot daily or frequently in drumming or soliciting orders for goods, as before stated. His principals are specific parties, firms, or corporations, all non-residents of Tennessee and residents of other States in the United States, and he does not represent or hold himself out as representing the public in general, or negotiate or sell for any resident of Tennessee.

The statutes relating to this tax are:
Acts 1897, chap. N, p. 52.

Acts 1899, chap. 432, 1016, and possibly Acts 1895, chap. 4 (extra session), p. 580.

There can be no question but that complainants are, under the facts stated, merchandise brokers. The precise question is decided is decided in Spears vs. Loague, 6 Cold., 421.

The revenue act of 1895 contained no special provision as to merchandise brokers, but embraced them under the general head of

"brokers, other than real-estate," p. 580.

The act of 1897 made special provision for the taxation of merchandise brokers, in general terms, under the head "brokers, merchandise," as changed the general head to "brokers (other than realestate or merchandise, and those paying taxes as bankers").

Pp. 52, 53.

The act of 1899 was the same as act of 1897, except that the term merchandise brokers was so extended as to include "sellers of merchandise to consumers upon samples or orders," as well as "agents engaged" in the business, p. 1016.

The complainants are not engaged in interstate commerce.

They are residents of the State, are engaged in the exercise of an occupation that is taxed as a privilege, and have an

office from which they transact that business and exhibit samples.

They represent several firms and different lines of goods. They fall within the case of Fecklin vs. Taxing Dist., 145 U.S. L., and Memphis vs. Car-ington, 91 Tenn., 511.

They are clearly not within the cases of Robbins vs. Tax. Dist., 120 U. S., 489, and of Hurford vs. State, 91 Tenn., 671, and of State

vs. Scott, 98 Tenn., 254.

In the Robbins case the tax was held to be on the non-resident principal. Robbins was a transient drummer representing one particular firm.

In the case at bar the tax is on a localized business done by citizens of the State and for no particular principal. In the Hurford and Scott cases the agents had no office and represented a single principal and for a specific line of goods.

The court said there was no similarity between that case and the

Ficklin case, p. 676.

(2.)

The court erred in taxing Hamilton County, that was not a party, with the costs.

G. W. PICKLE, Att'y Gen'l.

(The following was written in pencil at the bottom of the brief:)

It is worthy of note that the non-resident principals had the power to reject orders that the residents had taken and thereby reduce agent's commission.

PICKLE.

68 Assignment of Errors and Brief for the State of Tennessee and Hamilton County.

Filed Sept. 17, 1900. J. G. Stuart, D. C.

Supreme Court, Hamilton County, Tennessee.

STOCKARD & JONES
vs.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.
Consolidated Causes — Equity.

Question Involved.

The sole question presented in this case is whether or not the complainants in these consolidated causes are liable for privilege taxes, as merchandise brokers, to the State of Tennessee and Hamilton county.

Statement of Facts.

The complainants in these consolidated causes, to wit, Stockard and Jones, J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Caruthers, and J. H. Allison, filed their original injunction bills against Clint Morgan, a constable, and J. N. McCutcheon, county court clerk of Hamilton county, Tennessee, charging that they had been engaged in the business of soliciting and taking orders from wholesale and jobbing merchants in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for goods to be sold them by non-resident parties; that they do not sell to consumers, and that they represent certain particular non-resident firms and corporations, claiming that they are engaged exclusively in interstatecommerce business, and that they had never applied for any license to carry on business in Hamilton county, Tennessee; that defendant, Clint Morgan, a constable of Hamilton county, was threatening to seize and sell their property under a distress warrant, issued by the county court clerk, for certain amounts claimed to be due from them to the State and county; that said distress warrant, neither on its face nor by endorsement, shows any revenue to be claimed for the State of Tennessee or Hamilton county; that it is vague and 69

indefinite and void for uncertainty.

See Trans., p. -

The chancellor granted an injunction restraining the collection of

said distress warrant-.

The defendants answered that said distress warrants were issued on motion of E. H. Williams, State revenue agent, against all of said complainants, who were alleged to be doing business as merchandise brokers in Hamilton county, Tennessee, without first having complied with the law requiring them to pay a privilege tax of \$20 to the State of Tennessee and \$20 to Hamilton county for each year for which they have conducted their business. Thereafter, on April 19, 1900, the State of Tennessee and Hamilton county, by E. H. Williams, State revenue agent, filed a petition in said consolidated causes, alleging that complainants are merchandise brokers, doing business in Hamilton county, Tennessee, and that they are liable to the State and county for privilege taxes for the years and in the amounts therein set out.

See Trans., p. 2.

Thereupon solicitors for complainants and defendants entered into an agreement that the question at issue is whether or not the complainants or any of them are liable for any privilege tax, and then it was agreed that the consolidated causes should be heard upon their merits, and that all questions which might affect the jurisdiction of the court were waived, and that the question of the regularity or irregularity of the distress warrants set out in the bill were also waived; and it was also agreed that E. H. Williams', State revenue agent's, right to commissions or fees should be the same as if he had brought suit for the taxes claimed.

See Trans., p. 10.

A further agreement of facts was filed on May 1st, 1900, showing that the complainant, as the representative of non-resident firms or corporations, solicits orders of goods from jobbers or wholesale dealers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and when such orders are obtained sends them to his non-resident principal or principals. If an order is accepted the goods are shipped by such non-resident principal or principals to the local jobber or wholesale dealer. Up to the time of the sale the goods in all instances belong to the non-resident principal or principals, and are shipped to the State of Tennessee from another State. In making sales or soliciting orders for the goods, the complainant sometimes exhibits samples and sometimes takes the orders without showing a sample.

Unless complainant has been previously authorized by his principals to sell at a fixed price, the orders are taken subject to acceptance or rejection by such non-resident principal or principals who

own the goods.

At the end of each month or at stated periods the complainant is paid a commission by such non-resident principal or principals for goods previously sold on accepted orders. No commission is

paid on orders taken but rejected.

Complainant does not receive for his services any pay or salary from any local jobber or dealer or resident of Tennessee, nor does he assume to represent, or represent or hold himself out as representing, any resident of Tennessee, or negotiate any sales of goods for residents of Tennessee; his principals are all residents of other States of the United States, and the goods sold are shipped from such other States to the State of Tennessee for delivery to buyers who reside in Tennessee.

The complainant has an office or headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he keeps samples, stationery, and other articles, but he travels around on foot daily, and frequently in drumming or soliciting orders for goods, as before stated. His principals are

specific parties, firms, or corporations, all non-residents of of
Tennessee and residents of other States in the United States,
and he does not represent or hold himself out as representing
the public in general, or negotiate or sell for any resident of
Tennessee.

The defendants and solicitors for the State of Tennessee and Hamilton county contend that under the facts the complainants are merchandise brokers, and each of them is bound for privilege taxes under the laws of Tennessee. The complainants contend that they are engaged exclusively in interstate commerce and are not bound for such privilege taxes.

Further, that the revenue laws of Tennessee applicable to merchandise brokers do not include these complainants so as to make them subject to privilege taxes, but even if such laws do include the complainants, yet they are inoperative and void against com-

plainants who are engaged solely in interstate commerce.

See Trans., pp. 15 to 17.

The chancellor held that the complainants were not subject to the privilege tax, penalties, costs, and fees sought to be recovered from them, and the injunction-granted under the several bills in this cause, restraining the collection thereof, were made perpetual, and the costs were adjudged against Hamilton County, from which decree the State of Tennessee and Hamilton County prayed an appeal to the supreme court, and now come and assign the following errors to the holding of the chancellor:

Assignment of Errors.

It was error for the court to hold that complainants were not liable for the privilege taxes, penalties, costs, and fees and commissions sought to be collected from them as merchandise brokers for the following reasons:

The legislature of Tennessee has levied a privilege tax upon merchandise brokers, which should include, when the sale is made in the State, all sellers of merchandise to consumers upon orders

or samples, and also all agents engaged in such business, in cities, towns, and taxing districts of 20,000 to 50,000 or over, each, per annum, \$20.00.

See Acts of 1899, chap. 432, p. 1016.

"A broker, within the meaning of the revenue laws, is an agent who negotiates sales between parties for commission, and a person who sells only stocks and bonds bought by himself is not a broker."

State vs. Duncan, 16 Lea, p. 75. State vs. Nashville Sav. Bnk., 16 Lea, 118.

"Where a resident broker negotiates sales of goods between residents and non-residents, the business is not interstate commerce and the broker may be taxed."

Memphis vs. Carrington, 91 Tenn., 511. Ficklin vs. Taxing District, 145 U. S., p. 1. See also Harford vs. The State, 7 Pickle, 671.

"A privilege tax levied by the State authorities on those doing business within the State as brokers or commercial agents for firms living outside the State is not a tax on interstate commerce and is valid."

Ficklin vs. Taxing District, 145 U. S., p. 1, distinguishing

Robins vs. Taxing District, 120 U.S., p. 489.

In the case of Memphis vs. Carrington, 7 Pickle, 511, Judge Lurton, in discussing the question of the liability of defendants for

privilege tax, said:

"Upon careful consideration, we are of opinion that this tax is upon the privilege of opening and establishing an office or agency for the representation of foreign insurance companies. The insurance companies have not opened an office, but Messrs. Carrington, Masons and Sons have. * * The doing of such business and

the conducting of such an agency is made a privilege. The case of Ficklin et al. vs. Taxing District, decided by this court in 1889 and recently affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States, is in point as to the proper construction of this section. In that case it appeared that Ficklin was engaged in and doing business as a general merchandise broker, and as such was taxed under section 9, chapter 96, of the amended taxing district act of 1881. Claiming to represent only foreign principals. Ficklin resisted the tax upon the ground that it was a tax upon his principal- and as such a tax upon interstate commerce, and that the tax fell within the principle of the case of Robbins vs. The Taxing District, 120 U.S., 489. This court thought the case was to be distinguished, in that Robbins represented a single firm, as their agent or drummer, while Ficklin held himself out as a general merchandise broker, and that the tax was put upon the privilege or business of a general merchandise broker, and was made, therefore, in fact or in effect a tax upon the persons or firms represented by him. This view was affirmed, the opinion not being yet reported. It is true that the question there was as to whether the tax was one upon interstate commerce, and that no such question can arise here, inasmuch as the business of insurance is not commerce." L. & L. Fire Ins. Co. vs. Oliver, 10 Wal., 566.

"But the case is applicable, in that the taxes — held to be upon the agent personally and not one upon the persons represented by him."

In the case of Ficklin vs. Shelby County, Mr. Chief Justice Fuller in delivering the opinion of the court used the following language:

"In the case of Robbins the tax was held in effect not to be a tax on Robbins, but on his principals; while here the tax was clearly levied upon complainants in respect of the general commission business they conducted and their property engaged therein or their profits realized therefrom. No doubt can be entertained of the right of a State legislature to tax trades, professions, and occupations, in the absence of inhibition in the State constitution in that regard,

and where a resident citizen (as are complainants in these cases) engages in general business subject to a particular tax, the fact that the business done chances to consist for the time

being wholly or partially in negotiating sales, between resident and non-resident merchants, of goods situated in another State does not necessarily involve the taxation of interstate commerce forbidden

by the Constitution."

The distinction is clearly drawn in all the authorities between the business or occupation of a drummer and that of a merchandise broker, it being held that a tax on a drummer is a tax on his principal, and where he represents a non-resident principal that the tax constitutes an attempt to regulate interstate commerce, and is therefore void, while on the other hand it is clearly held that the privilege tax upon the business or occupation of the merchandise broker is not a tax upon his principals, but is a privilege tax levied upon the business or occupation of the merchandise broker, which business or occupation of the merchandise broker, which business

ness or occupation the legislature has declared to be a privilege, and which cannot be construed into a tax upon the broker's nonresident principals nor into an attempted regulation or tax on interstate commerce.

It will be seen, from the agreed statement of facts filed in these causes, and from the statement of the case of Ficklin vs. Shelby

County, that the two cases are absolutely identical.

From the agreed statement of facts filed in this cause it is clearly shown that the complainants are engaged in the general business of merchandise brokers, keeping an office or headquarters where they keep their samples, stationery, &c.; that they negotiate sales on their own responsibility, without the power to bind their nonresident principals, but make all sales subject to their approval as to prices charged.

See Trans., p. -.

They are therefore engaged in a merchandise brokerage business, and the fact that their principals are all non-residents of Tennessee does not bring them within the power of the interstate-commerce act, because, at any time they choose, they may commence to

represent resident principals, and as to whether their princi-75 pals are residents or non-residents of the State can have no bearing in this case, because it is the general business of merchandise brokers which is declared to be a privilege by the legislature and taxed as such, and they are engaged in that business.

R. B. COOKE,

Sol'r for Appellants.

In the Supreme Court, at Knoxville. 76

 $\left.\begin{array}{c} {
m Stockard} \ {
m \& \ Jones} \\ {vs.} \end{array}\right\} {
m Consolidated \ Causes}.$

CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

From the chancery court of Hamilton county.

Reply Brief for Complainants.

The only questions involved in these cases is whether or not the complainants are subject to payment of a tax as "merchandise brokers" under the statutes of Tennessee. The salient facts to which we direct especial attention are:

(1.) That complainants represent solely non-resident parties, firms, and corporations, and neither represent, assume to represent, or hold themselves out as representing any residents of the State of

Tennessee.

(2.) That they do not do business for any and all non-residents generally who may solicit or engage their services, but that each of the complainants represents only certain specific parties, firms, or

(3.) That complainants take orders for merchandise from residents

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of Tennessee, which orders complainants forward to their non-resident principals, and, if the orders are accepted, the goods are shipped direct by the principals to the persons giving the orders. In all instances the goods at the time the orders are given are in another State, and are shipped into Tennessee in pursuance of the orders taken by complainants, if the orders are accepted.

(4.) That complainants sell only to jobbers and wholesale dealers

and not to consumers.

(5.) That complainants are paid their compensation solely by the non-resident sellers by way of commissions on the orders sent in by them and accepted by their principals. They receive no compensation from the purchasers or parties by whom the orders are given.

It can scarcely be denied that the sale and shipment of goods from an owner in one State to a purchaser in another is inter-

577 state commerce, or that a person soliciting, as agent, in one State "the sale of goods on behlaf of individuals or firms doing business in another State" is engaged in interstate commerce, and such occupation cannot be made the subject of taxation by the States. This was the exact point decided in Robbins vs. Shelby Taxing District, 120 U.S., 489.

The appellants, however, insist that this case is not governed by the rule laid down in the Robbins case and other kindred cases, and that the appellees were not engaged in interstate commerce, and they seek to differentiate this case from those belonging to the class

of which the Robbins case is one on these grounds:

1. That the tax in question is not laid upon the sale of the goods or on the goods themselves or on the non-resident principals of the appellees, but that it is "upon the agents personally, and not upon

the persons represented by him."

2. That the agents in these cases are all residents of the State of Tennessee, and not, as in the Robbins case, non-residents, and that therefore they are subject to the operation of the tax laws, as well as all other laws of this State.

3. That the appellees in these cases represented not a single principal each, but several principals, and that therefore, though all these principals are non-residents, they are engaged in the general business of merchandise brokers, and not in interstate commerce.

4. That complainants all had offices or "headquarters" in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they kept samples, stationery, and other

articles.

1. The proposition that a tax exacted from a person engaged in interstate commerce is not a restriction upon or interference with interstate commerce itself has been repeatedly declared unsound. In the leading case of Brown vs. Maryland, 12 Wheat., 419, the tax involved was one imposed by the State of Maryland on "all importers of foreign articles or commodities * * * and other persons selling the same by wholesale." It was contended on behalf of the State that this act did not "impose a tax on the importation

of foreign goods or on the trade and occupation of an importer; but the tax is imposed upon the trade and occupation of selling foreign goods by wholesale after they have been

imported. It is a tax upon the profession or trade of the party when that trade is carried on within the State. It is laid upon the same principle with the usual taxes on retailers, or innkeepers, or hawkers and peddlers, or upon any other trade exercised within the State."

But the Supreme Court, through Mr. Chief Justice Marshall, held

the contention unsound.

* it is still argued that this is not a tax upon the article, but on the person. The State, it is said, may tax occupations, and this is nothing more. It is impossible to conceal from ourselves that this is varying the form without varying the sub-All must perceive that a tax on the sale of an article imported only for sale is a tax on the article itself. It is true that the State may tax occupations generally, but this tax must be paid by those who employ the individual, or is a tax on his business. The lawyer, the physician. or the mechanics must either charge more on the article in which he deals, or the thing itself is taxed through his person. This the State has a right to do, because no constitutional prohibition extends to it; so a tax on the occupation of an importer is in like manner a tax on importation. It must add to the price of the article and be paid by the consumer or by the importer himself in like manner as a direct duty on the article itself This the State has not a right to do, because it is would be made. prohibited by the Constitution."

12 Wheat., 444.

So in the case of Walton vs. Missouri, 91 U. S., 275, a license tax on persons selling goods, wares, and merchandise not the growth, product, or manufacture of the State was sought to be maintained as a tax upon a calling and not upon the goods themselves; but the court said that "where the business or occupation consists in the sale of goods, the license tax required for its pursuit is in effect a tax upon the goods themselves. If such a tax be within the

power of the State to levy, it matters not whether it be raised directly from the goods or indirectly from them through the license to the dealer; but if such tax conflict with any power vested in Congress by the Constitution of the United States, it will not be any the less invalid because enforced through the form of a personal license."

In Leloup vs. Port of Mobile, 127 U. S., 640, 643, the court said: "Ordinary occupations are taxed in various ways, and in most cases legitimately taxed; but we fail to see how a State can tax a business occupation when it cannot tax the business itself. Of course, the exaction of a license tax as a condition of doing any particular business it a tax on the occupation, and a tax on the occupation of doing a business is surely a tax on the business."

In McCall vs. California, 136 U. S., 104, a tax imposed by the statutes of California on railroad agencies was held a tax on interstate commerce, in so far as it applies to an agent in San Francisco of a corporation operating a railroad from Chicago to New York, where the duties of the agent were to induce people comtemplating a trip

east to travel over the line he represented. The court held that this agency was one of the "means" employed by the railroad company to increase its business; that the railroad was engaged in interstate commerce, and therefore the tax was "upon a means or an occupation of carrying on interstate commerce, pure and simple"

tion of carrying on interstate commerce, pure and simple."

The case of Brennan vs. Titusville, 153 U. S., 289, involved the validity of an ordinance requiring agents soliciting orders on behalf of manufacturers of goods to take out a license and pay a tax therefor. The court held that when enforced against such an agent within the State soliciting orders for a manufacturer of goods in another State the ordinance imposed a tax upon interstate commerce, in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

"That this license is a direct burden on interstate commerce is not

open to question."

153 U. S., 302.

The case of State vs. Scott, 98 Tenn., 254, is to the same effect. The question here involved was as to the validity of a statute imposing a tax on "persons other than photographers of this State soliciting pictures to be enlarged outside of this State."

80 This court held:

(1.) That the enlargement of pictures referred to in the

statute was interstate commerce.

(2.) That though no tax was in terms laid upon the business of enlarging pictures, or the principals engaged in it, or upon the product, but only on the soliciting agents, yet it was in effect a tax upon the principals, and hence upon their business.

(3.) That, this business being interstate commerce, the State had no right to put any burden upon it, or to regulate or interfere with

it in any way, and therefore the statute was void.

2. The facts that complainants were all residents of Hamilton county, Tennessee, cannot be material to the question under consideration. The ground on which such a tax as is here in question is held to be invalid is that it is an attempt to interfere with interstate commerce and is in effect a tax on such commerce; and manifestly the objection applies just as strongly where the person against whom the tax is nominally assessed is a resident of the State as where he is a non-resident. If it were true, as insisted by appellants, that the tax is a personal one against the broker, there might be some force in this contention; but, in view of the holding that such taxes are in fact imposed on the business of interstate commerce, we submit that it makes no difference whether the agents sought to be taxed are residents of the State or not. As a matter of fact, in a large majority of the cases where the validity of such a tax has been brought in question the person nominally taxed seems to have been a resident of the State by which the tax was imposed. Thus in Brown vs. Maryland, supra, it is, we think, manifest from the opinion that the plaintiff in error was a resident of Maryland. He was certainly indicted and convicted in that State, and it nowhere appears that he was not a resident, so it may at least be said

that the question of the place of his residence was immaterial. The same is true of Welton vs. Missouri, 91 U. S., 275.

In Leloup vs. Port of Mobile, 127 U.S., 640, the plaintiff in error was the managing agent at Mobile for the Western Union Telegraph

Co., and was indicted and convicted in the circuit court of Mobile for refusing to pay the tax in question. It is fair to

infer that he was a resident of that place.

In McCall vs. San Francisco, 136 U. S., 104, the plaintiff in error was "an agent in the city and county of San Francisco," and it was sought to sustain the validity of the tax on the ground that it was a "license tax for the privilege of maintaining an agency in the city

of San Francisco."

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In Brennan vs. Titusville, 153 U. S., 289, it was insisted on behalf of the defendant in error that, as there was nothing in the record to show that plaintiff in error was not a resident of Pennsylvania, the State in which the tax was imposed and in which the conviction was had, "the presumption therefore is that he was a citizen and resident of Pennsylvania." From the fact that the court in its opinion did not notice this contention, it must be inferred that it was not considered material.

It is true that in Robbins vs. Shelby Taxing District, 120 U.S., 489, the statement of facts showed that Robbins was a resident of another State, but no stress is laid on that fact in the opinion, nor does the

decision in any way depend upon it.

It is no doubt true that every person is, within constitutional limits, subject to the laws of the State in which he resides, and must pay such taxes as are imposed on him by those laws; but as no State can tax interstate commerce directly, so it cannot do so indirectly, and it makes no difference whether the medium through which it seeks to do so is one of its own citizens or a citizen of some other State. Adverting again to the case of State vs. Scott, supra, the tax, while in terms laid on the agent, is in effect imposed on the non-resident principals and on the business they are engaged in, and, that business being interstate commerce, the tax is illegal.

3. Neither can it be material, as we submit, that the complainants or any of them represented more than one non-resident each, if such were the facts. The stipulation on which these cases were tried in the court below does not show that any one of the complainants did in fact represent more than one principal, and we do not think it can be assumed that they did. Conceding, however, for

the sake of the argument, that the facts are as contended by appellants, we do not see how they would alter the case. If the soliciting of orders in this State for one non-resident is interstate commerce, or a means of carrying on interstate commerce, it would seem that soliciting orders for two or more non-residents would not be the less so. It is no doubt frequently the case that the business of one non-resident is not sufficient to take all the time of the resident agent, or that a single non-resident cannot afford to pay for the entire time of a resident drummer or broker. In such cases does the mere fact that the agent undertakes to and does solicit orders for two or more principals, or that two or more non-residents agree to em-

ploy the same agent, each paying a proportionate share of his salary or commission, change the character of the business done by the agent, so that while it would be interstate commerce if he represented only one principal, it became intrastate commerce if he represents two? We can see no reason for such distinction and have found no authority to support it. On the contrary, there is direct

authority against it, as we will hereafter show.

4. The fact that complainants kept an office or headquarters in this State, where they kept their samples, stationery, etc., does not change the character of their business. It is not contended that complainants or their principals kept any goods for sale in this State, but, on the contrary, it is expressly stipulated that they did not. The offices or headquarters were, therefore, nothing more than mere conveniences for the agents, and did not change the character of the business they did. In the following cases, among others, the opinions show that the plaintiffs in error kept an office in the State in which the tax was imposed.

Leloup v. Port of Mobile, 127 U. S., 640. McCall vs. California, 136 U. S., 104.

Norfolk & Western R. R. Co. vs. Pennsylvania, 136 U. S., 114. Crutcher vs. Kentucky, 141 U. S., 47.

5. It is insisted, however, on behalf of appellants that the Supreme Court of the United States has settled the question here involved adversely to the appellees in the case of Ficklin vs. Shelby

County, 145 U.S., 1; but we think that an examination of that 83 case will clearly disclose that is entirely different from this The facts involved in that case were that complainants were established and did business as general merchandise brokers in Memphis, and paid the tax imposed by law on merchandise brokers, and received a general and unrestricted license to do business as such brokers. They were liable under the act to pay not only a privilege tax, which they did pay, but also a percentage on the amount of commissions received from their business. This percentage they refused to pay, and filed a bill to enjoin the collection of it, averring that they were not legally subject to payment of the tax; that one of the complainants negotiated sales exclusively for non-residents of the State of Tennessee, and that nine-tenths of the sales negotiated and effected by the other complainants were also for non-resident firms. The Supreme Court said:

"We agree with the supreme court of the State that the complainants, having taken out licenses under the law in question to do a general commission business, and having given bond to report their commissions during the year, and to pay the required percentage thereon, could not, when they applied for similar licenses for the ensuing year, resort to the courts because the municipal authorities refused to issue such licenses without the payment of the stipulated tax. What position they would have occupied if they had not undertaken to do a general commission business and had taken out no licenses therefor, but had simply transacted business for non-resident

principals, is an entirely different question, which does not arise upon this record."

145 U. S., 24.

From this opinion Mr. Justice Harlan dissented. In the subsequent case of Brennan vs. Titusville, 153 U. S., 289, 306, the court say that no departure is intended in the Ficklen case from the rule "so firmly established" by the other cases which we have heretofore cited, but that, "the case was near the boundary line of the State's power." Explaining that case, the court said that, as the tax imposed was for the privilege of doing a general commission business within the State, and as the State had granted complainants

the privilege for a stipulated price, it would be "refining too much" to release them from the obligations of their bonds

merely because it happened that during the year they had sold only to non-residents; that the tax was an entirety, and when plaintiffs applied for their licenses at the beginning of the year they assumed the whole liability imposed by the State, and as a party having paid a license tax could not, on failure to do any business, sue for and recover back the tax, so the plaintiffs, having sought and obtained the privilege of doing a general commission business, which the State might properly license, could not refuse to pay the sum they had agreed to pay on the ground that they had not exercised the privilege.

We do not think that the Ficklen case, especially as explained in the Brennan case, in any way sustains the contention of the appel-

lants in this case.

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6. The case of Stratford rs. City Council of Montgomery, 110 Ala., 619, is exactly "on all fours" with this case. The facts, as shown in the report of the case, were that the plaintiff in error was a resident citizen of Montgomery, Alabama; that he kept an office or place of business there for exhibiting samples and carrying on correspondence; that he solicited and received orders from wholesale and retail merchants of Alabama for the purchase of goods from several non-resident wholesale dealers who lived and carried on business in other States; that orders taken by him were subject to the approval of the principals, and if accepted he was entitled to a commission thereon, to be paid by the seller. The goods at the time the contracts for sale were made were the property of the non-resident principals and were in other States. The city of Montgomery, being properly authorized by its charter to do so, passed an ordinance requiring a license of \$50 per annum from "local commercial brokers," and prohibiting under penalty the carrying on of the business of "local commercial broker" without payment of the license. The plaintiff in error, having failed to pay the tax, was arrested, convicted, and fined for violating this ordinance, and appealed to the That court held: Supreme Court.

(1.) That plaintiff in error was a "commercial broker" within

the meaning of the ordinance.

85 (2.) That, as he represented only non-resident principals in negotiating sales of merchandise which at the time was situated in other States, the ordinance in question could not be applied to him without violating the commerce clause of the Constitution of the United States, and therefore he was not liable to the tax in

question.

In this case the court reviews both the Ficklen case and the Brennan case, and differentiates the former from the case before it on the ground that while "the business of defendant was general, so as to constitute him a broker, it by no means follows that it required he should also take local business. He might, as he did, confine himself to interstate business and still be a 'broker' without becoming liable to the tax."

We submit that the decree of the chancellor was correct, and that

it should be affirmed.

ROB"T P. WOODARD, PRITCHARD & SIZER, Sol'rs for Appellees.

Filed September 29, 1900. J. G. Stuart, D. C.

STOCKARD & JONES VS.
CLINT MORGAN.

Opinion.

This cause and those heard with it involve three questions: First, Are the complainants merchandise brokers within the meaning of the Tennessee revenue law imposing a tax on such brokers? second, Does the tax apply to them? and, third, If it has such application, is it a valid constitutional statute and not obnoxious to the interstate-commerce clause of the Federal Constitution?

The question of fact we decide affirmatively. We content ourselves on this point with reference to the agreed facts without reciting them, and to the very discriminating application of the law thereto in an almost precisely similar case decided by the supreme

court of Alabama at its Nov. term. 1895.

110 Ala., 619, Stratford vs. City of Montgomery.

We hold that the law applies to complainants and is not unconstitutional.

In the Alabama case cited the court shows very clearly the distinction that exists between a mere agent of a foreign principal and a merchandise broker whose business is conducted on the line of sales for foreign and to domestic patrons. After drawing this distinction with great force and clearness the Alabama court holds that such brokers stand in the same non-taxable relation as do mere agents, and that a privilege tax on the exercise of such a business is a tax on interstate commerce.

We do not think so. The law does not discriminate. The tax is on the privilege of doing such a business in the State without regard

to the customers sought or principal represented.

The thing taxed is the occupation of merchandise brokerage, not

the business of those employing, whether they be domestic or foreign principals. The principals secured by the brokers are at their option. The law confines them to neither foreign or domestic. It authorizes the business in this State, protects it, and reasonably taxes it for such permission and protection.

It gives to such business the right of competition with other privileged occupations, and charges those engaged in it only

as it charges others—reasonably and proportionately to the respective advantages of each. To hold otherwise would be to declare that there could be no tax on the occupation of merchandise brokerage unless those employed in it should appear to confine their business done here to representation of special principals.

We think the view here taken — in accord with that expressed by this court in Ficklen vs. Shelby Co. Taxing District, affirmed by the

Supreme Court of the United States, 145 U.S., 1.

The decree of the chancellor is therefore reversed and bill dismissed with cost.

SNODGRASS, C. J.

Final Decree.

Monday, October 15, 1900.

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present and presiding: The Hon. Chief Justice D. L. Snodgrass and the Hon. Associate Justices W. C. Caldwell, John S. Wilkes, W. K. McAlister, and W. D. Beard.

The minutes of Saturday were read and signed, when the follow-

ing proceedings were had, to wit:

This cause came on to be heard on this 15th day of October, 1900, before the hon, supreme court of Tennessee, at Knoxville, on the transcript of the record from the chancery court of Hamilton county, Tennessee, and upon assignments of errors and briefs of defendants and reply briefs of complainants, and the court is of opinion that the chancellor's decree is erroneous, and doth reverse the same and dismiss the several bills of the complainants.

It is therefore adjudged and decreed that the bills in these several causes be dismissed and the injunctions granted therein dissolved and the defendants recover of the complainants in each cause and of their sureties on their prosecution bonds all the costs of the causes. The costs appropriate to each case will be taxed separately in that

case, and execution will issue accordingly.

On the hearing of these causes the chief contention of complainants was that the business in which they were engaged was interstate commerce, and that they were protected from State legislation by the commerce clause of the Federal Constitution; but the court held they were not so protected. It is further adjudged and decreed that these causes be remanded to the chancery court of Hamilton county, to the end that a proper reference may be had for damages upon the injunction bonds.

And to all of the foregoing decree the complainants except.

89 Costs Incident to Writ of Error to Supreme Court of U. S.

Clerk Alex. McMillan:

\$3,90 **\$**36,15

82 25

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Petition for Writ of Error.

Filed Oct. 17, 1900. Alex. McMillan, Clerk.

In the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee, at Knoxville, Tenn. In Equity.

STOCKARD & JONES v.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

To the Honorable David L. Snodgrass, chief justice of the supreme court of the State of Tennessee:

The petition of B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, composing the firm of Stockard & Jones; J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison respectfully shows that on the — day of October, 1900, the supreme court of the State of Tennessee rendered a decree against your petitioners in certain consolidated cases, under the style of Stockard & Jones v. Clint Morgan et al., in which several cases your petitioners were complainants and Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon were defendants, denying your petitioners the relief sought under said bills, dismissing their said bills, and adjudging the costs against them and awarding execution therefor, as will fully appear by reference to the record and proceedings in said consolidated causes under the style aforesaid; and your petitioners show that said supreme court is the highest court of said State of Tennessee in which a decision in said suit can or could be had.

And your petitioners now claim the right to remove said decree and proceedings to the Supreme Court of the United States by writ of error under the statutes of the United States authorizing writs of error to State courts, and especially under section 709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, because in said causes, your petitioners being the complainants therein, there was drawn in question the validity of statutes of the State of Tennessee and the authority exercised thereunder, on the ground of their being repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the decision of the said supreme court was in favor of their validity, and because certain

rights, privileges, and immunities were claimed by your petitioners under the Constitution of the United States, and the decision 91 was against the right, privilege, or immunity claimed by your petitioners under such Constitution. Your petitioners claim that they were protected by the commerce clause of the Constitution of the United States from taxation under the revenue laws of the State of Tennessee, and the decision of the said Supreme Court was averse to their contention and in favor of the validity of the statute imposing the tax and against the immunity and protection asserted and claimed by your petitioners, and a decree was rendered

against your petitioners, as aforesaid, all of which will fully appear by reference to the record and proceedings in said cause. Wherefore your petitioners pray the allowance of writ of error, returnable into the Supreme Court of the United States, to operate as a supersedeas, and for a citation to the defendants: and they will

ever pray, etc.

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B. A. STOCKARD.
R. C. JONES.
J. H. McREYNOLDS.
W. G. OEHMIG.
T. M. CAROTHERS.
J. H. ALLISON.

R. P. WOODARD, ROBERT PRITCHARD, J. B. SIZER, Solicitors.

Writ of error allowed as prayed, to operate as a supersedeas; bond fixed at \$1,500.00.

Citation will issue as prayed for. This October 17th, 1900.

D. L. SNODGRASS, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

Writ of Error.

Filed October 17, 1900. Alex. McMillan, Clerk.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 88:

The President of the United States to the honorable the judges of the supreme court of the State of Tennessee, Greeting:

Because in the record and proceedings, as also in the rendition of the judgment of a plea which is in the said supreme court of the State of Tennessee, before you or some of you, being the highest court of law or equity of the said State in which a decision could be had in the said suit between B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, composing the firm of Stockard & Jones; J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, complainants and plaintiffs in error, and Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, defendants and defendants in error, wherein was drawn in question the validity of a treaty or statute of or an authority exercised under the United

States and the decision was against their validity, or wherein was drawn in question the validity of a statute of or an authority exercised under said State, on the ground of their being repugnant to the Constitution, treaties, or laws of the United States, and the decision was in favor of such their validity, or wherein was drawn in question the construction of a clause of the Constitution or of a treaty or statute of or commission held under the United States and the decision was against the right, title, privilege, or exemption specially set up or claimed under such clause of said Constitution, treaty, statute, or commission, a manifest error hath happened, to the great damage of the said B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, composing the firm of Stockard & Jones; J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, plaintiffs in error, as by their complaint appears, we, being willing that error, if any hath been, should be duly corrected and full and speedy justice done to the parties aforesaid in this behalf, do command you, if judgment be therein given, that then, under your seal, distinctly and openly, you send the record and proceedings aforesaid, with all things concerning the same, to the Supreme Court of the United States, together with this writ, so that you may have the same in the said Supreme

93 Court, at Washington, within thirty days from the date hereof, that, the record and proceedings aforesaid being inspected, the said Supreme Court of the United States may cause further to be done therein to correct that error what of right and according to the laws and customs of the United States should be done.

Witness the Honorable Melville W. Fuller, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, the 17th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1900.

[The Seal of the Circuit Court, District of East Tenn.]

HENRY P. EWING, Clerk, By J. T. CARTER, Deputy Clerk of the U. S. Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Allowed by Hon. David L. Snodgrass, chief justice of the supreme court of Tennessee, and allowed to operate as a supersedeas this 17th day of October, 1900.

D. L. SNODGRASS, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee.

94 Filed October 17, 1900. Alex. McMillan, Clerk.

Know all men by these presents that we, Stockard & Jones, a firm composed of B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones; T. M. Carothers, J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, and J. H. Allison, as principals, and Rob't P. Woodard and Pritchard & Sizer, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto Clint Morgan and J. H. McCutcheon in the full and just sum of fifteen hundred dollars, to be paid to the said Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, their certain attorneys, executors, administrators, or assigns; to which payment, well and truly to be

made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 17th day of October, in the

year of our Lord nineteen hundred.

Whereas lately, at a session of the supreme court of the State of Tennessee, in a suit pending in said court between Stockard and Jones, T. M. Carothers, W. G. Oehmig, and J. H. Allison, complainants, and Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, defendants, a decree was rendered against the said Stockard and Jones, T. M. Carothers, J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, and J. H. Allison, and the said above-named complainants and plaintiffs in error having obtained a writ of error and filed a copy thereof in the clerk's office of the said court to reverse the decree in the aforesaid suit, and a citation directed to the said Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, citing and admonishing them to be and appear at the United States Supreme Court, to be holden at the city of Washington within thirty days from the date hereof:

Now, the condition of the above obligation is such that if the said Stockard and Jones, T. M. Carothers, J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oelmig, and J. H. Allison shall prosecute said writ of error to effect and answer all damages and costs if they fail to make their plea good, then the above obligation to be void; else to remain in full

force and virtue.

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STOCKARD & JONES.
THOS. M. CAROTHERS.
J. H. McREYNOLDS.
W. G. OEHMIG,
J. H. ALLISON,
ROB'T P. WOODARD, Suret.
PRITCHARD & SIZER, Sureties.

Sealed and delivered in presence of— CRAWFORD JOHNSON. E. L. COOK.

Approved and allowed, to operate as supersedeas, by—
D. L. SNODGRASS,

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

Citation & Acknowledgement of Service.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 88:

To Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, Greeting:

You are hereby cited and admonished to be and appear at the Supreme Court of the United States, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, within thirty days from the date hereof, pursuant to a writ of error filed in the clerk's office of the supreme court of Tennessee, at Knoxville, Tennessee, in a case wherein B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, composing the firm of Stockard & Jones; J. H.

McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison are plaintiffs in error and you are defendants in error, to show cause, if any there be, why the judgment rendered against the said plaintiffs in error, as in said writ of error mentioned, should not be corrected and why speedy justice should not be done to the parties in that behalf.

Witness the Honorable David L. Snodgrass, chief justice of the supreme court of the State of Tennessee, this the 17 day of October,

in the year of our Lord 1900.

D. L. SNODGRASS, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee.

We acknowledge service of the within and foregoing citation and of the writ of error therein mentioned for and on behalf of the defendants in error, Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, this 17 day of October, 1900.

G. W. PICKLE, Solicitor for Defendants in Error.

Filed Oct. 17, 1900.

ALEX. McMILLAN, Clerk.

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Assignments of Error.

In the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

STOCKARD & JONES v.
CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

Assignment of errors.

And now come B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, partners under the firm name of Stockard & Jones; J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, complainants and plaintiffs in error, by their solicitors, and respectfully represent that they feel themselves to be aggrieved by the proceedings and decree of the supreme court of the State of Tennessee in the above-entitled cause, and they assign errors thereto as follows, to wit:

I.

That the said court erred in finding and decreeing that the said complainants were not entitled to the relief sought in and by their said bills, and in denying them such relief, and in dismissing their said bills with costs.

II.

That the court erred in finding and adjudging that the said several complainants were liable for the privilege tax assessed against merchandise brokers under the statutes of the State of Tennessee and were not protected therefrom by clause 3, sec. 8, art. I, of the Constitution of the United States.

III.

That the court erred in finding and adjudging that said several complainants were not engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of said clause of the Constitution of the United States, so as to be protected thereby from privilege taxation under the statutes of the State of Tennessee.

IV.

That in the chancery court held at Chattanooga, in Hamilton county, Tennessee, being the court which had and exercised original jurisdiction of the said several suits consolidated 97 under the style of Stockard & Jones v. Clint Morgan and others, said several complainants, being the appellants herein, specially set up and claim that they were engaged exclusively in commerce between the States, and that they were entitled to immunity from taxation on such business under the statutes and revenue laws of the State of Tennessee, and question the validity of the statutes of Tennessee imposing or purporting to impose any tax upon the privilege of their said business, and questioning the validity of the authority exercised under such statutes upon the ground of their being repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States upon the subject of commerce between the States, and the decision of the said chancery court at Chattanooga, in Hamilton county, Tennessee, was against the validity of said statutes and the authority exercised thereunder so far as they affected said complainants and in favor of the immunity claimed by appellants; but upon appeal to the said supreme court of the State of Tennessee, the decision of the supreme court was in favor of the validity of the said statutes and the authority exercised thereunder and against the privilege and immunity claimed by the said complainants under the said Constitution and laws of the United States, and particularly under the commerce clause of said Constitution; and said complainants say that the said supreme court erred in deciding in favor of the validity of said statutes of the State of Tennessee and of the authority exercised thereunder and against the rights, privileges, and immunities so set up and claimed by said complainants under the aforesaid provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

Wherefore the said Stockard & Jones, J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, complainants in error, pray for writ of error, to the end that the Supreme Court of the United States may examine and correct the errors assigned in said findings and decree of the supreme court of Tennessee, and for a reversal of the decree entered by the supreme court of

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the State of Tennessee in the above-entitled case; and they will ever pray, etc.

B. A. STOCKARD,
R. C. JONES,
J. H. MCREYNOLDS,
W. G. OEHMIG,
J. H. ALLISON,
T. M. CAROTHERS,
By PRITCHARD, Sol.

R. P. WOODARD, ROBERT PRITCHARD, J. B. SIZER, Solicitors.

99 Office of the clerk of the supreme court for the eastern division of Tennessee.

I, Alex. McMillan, clerk of said court, do hereby certify that the foregoing comprises a full, true, and correct copy of the transcript and of all the proceedings had in the cause of Stockard & Jones et al. vs. Clint Morgan et al., at its September term, 1900, as the same appear of record and on file in my office, and also that the original citation, writ of error, and assignments of error are attached hereto.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the court, at office, in Knoxville, Tenn., on this the 26th day of

October, 1900.

[Seal of the Supreme Court, Knoxville, Tenn.]

ALEX. McMILLAN, Clerk.

Ten-cent United States internal revenue stamp, canceled Oct. 26, 1900. A. McM.

100 In the Supreme Court of the United States under Writ of Error to the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

STOCKARD & JONES ET AL. Stipulation of Counsel Concerning the v.

CLINT MORGAN ET AL.

The parties appellant and defendant, by their respective solicitors, agree as follows:

I.

That separate bills of complaint were filed by the several complainants—that is to say, one bill was filed by Stockard and Jones, a firm composed of B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones; another by T. M. Carothers; another by J. H. McReynolds; another by W. G. Oehmig, and another by J. H. Allison—all for the same purpose and against the same defendants, Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon, and that the charges of the several bills were substantially identical. These bills were consolidated under the style of Stockard & Jones v. Clint Morgan et al. Only one bill, that of Stockard & Jones v. Clint Morgan et al., shall be printed.

II.

The following papers shall be omitted from the printed record:
(a.) The prosecution bonds executed by the complainants in the chancery court at Chattanooga, Tennessee, p. 1.

(b.) The subpænas to answer issued from said chancery court,

p. 9, 2432, 4049.

(c.) The writs of injunction issued from said chancery court, p. 9, 2432, 4048.

(d.) The appeal bond executed by the defendants on appeal from

said chancery court to the supreme court of Tennessee.

The printed portions of the record, with the omissions aforesaid, together with this stipulation, shall be submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States as the record in this case.

This October 29, 1900.

R. P. WOODARD,
ROBERT PRITCHARD,
J. B. SIZER,
Sol'rs for Pl't'ffs in Error.
G. W. PICKLE,
Att'y Gen'l and Sol'rs for D'f'ts.

[Endorsed:] Stipulation of counsel as to printing of record. Stockard & Jones et al., appellants, v. Clint Morgan et al. Pritchard & Sizer, attorneys-at-law, rooms 314, 315, & 316 Temple court, Chattanooga, Tenn.

[Endorsed:] File No., 17,971. Supreme Court U. S., October term, 1900. Term No., 486. B. A. Stockard et al., P. E.,
 vs. Clint Morgan et al. Stipulation as to printing record. Filed

Nov. 21, 1900.

Endorsed on cover: File No., 17,971. Tennessee supreme court. Term No., 195. B. A. Stockard and R. C. Jones, composing the firm of Stockard & Jones; J. H. McReynolds, W. G. Oehmig, T. M. Carothers, and J. H. Allison, plaintiffs in error, vs. Clint Morgan and J. N. McCutcheon. Filed November 21st, 1900.